



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[60Day-23-0260; Docket No. CDC-2023-0065]

### Proposed Data Collection Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

**AGENCY:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** Notice with comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce public burden and maximize the utility of government information, invites the general public and other federal agencies the opportunity to comment on a continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This notice invites comment on a proposed information collection project titled Health Hazard Evaluations/Technical Assistance and Emerging Problems. This data collection is designed to assist the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in responding to requests for Health Hazard Evaluations (HHEs) to identify chemical, biological or physical hazards in workplaces throughout the United States.

**DATES:** CDC must receive written comments on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION DATE IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. CDC-2023-0065 by either of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: [www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- Mail: Jeffrey M. Zirger, Information Collection Review Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS H21-8, Atlanta, Georgia 30329.

**Instructions:** All submissions received must include the agency name and Docket Number.

CDC will post, without change, all relevant comments to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

Please note: Submit all comments through the Federal eRulemaking portal

([www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)) or by U.S. mail to the address listed above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the information collection plan and instruments, contact Jeffrey M. Zirger, Information Collection Review Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS H21-8, Atlanta, Georgia 30329; Telephone: 404-639-7570; E-mail: [omb@cdc.gov](mailto:omb@cdc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. In addition, the PRA also requires federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the *Federal Register* concerning each proposed collection of information, including each new proposed collection, each proposed extension of existing collection of information, and each reinstatement of previously approved information collection before submitting the collection to the OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, we are publishing this notice of a proposed data collection as described below.

The OMB is particularly interested in comments that will help:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;
4. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other

technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses; and

5. Assess information collection costs.

## Proposed Project

Health Hazard Evaluations/Technical Assistance and Emerging Problems (OMB Control No. 0920-0260, Exp. 3/31/2024) – Revision - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

## Background and Brief Description

In accordance with its mandates under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, NIOSH responds to requests for Health Hazard Evaluations (HHE) to identify chemical, biological or physical hazards in workplaces throughout the United States. Each year, NIOSH receives approximately 250 such requests although that number has been lower in the most recent years presumably due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most HHE requests come from workplaces in the following industrial sectors: services, manufacturing, health and social services, transportation, and construction.

A printed HHE request form is available in English and in Spanish. The form is also available on the Internet and differs from the printed version only in format and in the fact that it can be submitted directly from the website. The request form takes an estimated 12 minutes to complete. The form provides the mechanism for employees, employers, and other authorized representatives to supply the information required by the regulations governing the NIOSH HHE program (42 CFR 85.3-1). NIOSH then reviews the HHE request to determine if an on-site evaluation is needed. The primary purpose of an on-site evaluation is to help employers and employees identify and eliminate occupational health hazards. For approximately 25% of the requests received NIOSH determines an on-site evaluation is needed. In approximately 70% of

these on-site evaluations, employees are interviewed in an informal manner to help further define concerns. Interviews may take approximately 15 minutes per respondent. The interview questions are specific to each workplace and its suspected diseases and hazards. However, interviews are based on standard medical practices. In approximately 30% of on-site evaluations, questionnaires are distributed or administered by NIOSH staff to employees. Questionnaires may require approximately 30 minutes to complete. The survey questions are specific to each workplace, and its suspected diseases and hazards; however, items in the questionnaires are derived from standardized or widely used medical and epidemiologic data collection instruments.

Approximately two (less than 1%) of the onsite evaluations involve medical tests or the collection of biological samples that would require informed consent. The estimated time to complete the informed consent process is 30 minutes. If 30 employees are monitored at each of the two work sites, the burden from this activity is 30 hours. Roughly 70% of the on-site evaluations involve employee exposure monitoring in the workplace. Employees participating in on-site evaluations by wearing a sampling or monitoring device to measure personal workplace exposures are offered the opportunity to receive notification of their exposure results. To indicate their preference and, if interested, provide contact information, employees complete a contact information post card or form. Completing the contact card or form may take five minutes or less. The number of employees monitored for workplace exposures per on-site evaluation is estimated to be 25 per site.

NIOSH distributes interim and final reports of health hazard evaluations, excluding personal identifiers, to the following: requesters, employers, employee representatives; the Department of Labor (Occupational Safety and Health Administration or Mine Safety and Health Administration, as appropriate); state health departments; and, as needed, other state and federal agencies. NIOSH also administers a followback program to assess the effectiveness of its HHE program in reducing workplace hazards. This program entails the distribution of followback surveys to employer and employee representatives at all the workplaces where NIOSH

conducted an on-site evaluation. In a small number of instances, a followback on-site evaluation may be completed. The first followback survey is sent shortly after the first visit for an on-site evaluation and takes about 10 minutes to complete. A second followback survey is sent after the final report is completed and requires about 20 minutes to complete. At 12 months, a third followback survey is sent, which takes about 15 minutes to complete.

For requests where NIOSH does not conduct an on-site evaluation, the requestor receives the first followback survey after our response letter is sent and a second one 12 months after our response. The first survey takes about 10 minutes to complete, and the second survey takes about 15 minutes to complete. Because of the number of investigations conducted each year, the need to respond quickly to requests for assistance, the diverse and unpredictable nature of these investigations, and its followback program to assess evaluation effectiveness, NIOSH requests a consolidated clearance for data collections performed within the domain of its HHE program. In consideration of this planned continuation, the program is submitting this Revision to include the next three years from the approval date. The total estimated burden hours are 1745 hours. There is no cost to respondents other than their time.

#### Estimated Annualized Burden Hours

Type of Respondents	Form Name	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses per Respondent	Average Burden per Response (in hours)	Total Burden (in hours)
Employees and Representatives	Health Hazard Evaluation Request Form	175	1	12/60	35
Employers	Health Hazard Evaluation Request Form	75	1	12/60	15
Employees	Health Hazard Evaluation specific interview example	1470	1	15/60	368

Employees	Health Hazard Evaluation specific questionnaire example	2100	1	30/60	1050
Employees	HHE specific informed consent form	60	1	30/60	30
Employees	Contact information post card	1225	1	5/60	102
Employees and Representatives; Employers - Year 1 (on-site evaluation)	First Followback Survey	140	1	10/60	23
Employees and Representatives; Employers - Year 1(on-site evaluation)	Second Followback Survey	140	1	20/60	47
Employees and Representatives; Employers - Year 2 (on-site evaluation)	Third Followback Survey	140	1	15/60	35
Employees and Representatives; Employers - Year 1 (without on-site evaluation)	First Followback Survey	94	1	10/60	16
Employees and Representatives; Employers - Year 2 (without on-site evaluation)	Second Followback Survey	94	1	15/60	24
Total					1745

**Jeffrey M. Zirger,**

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